

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**Pending Claims**

Claims 6-13 are pending in this application. Claims 6-9, 11 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

**Double Patenting Rejection**

Claims 6-13 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,650,642.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection, without admitting to the propriety of the rejection.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 6-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 6 to clarify that the transfer engine "outputs the output packet to the connector or the network interface." Further, the claim has been amended to set forth that the search engine searches "next transfer route information" based on the header information stored in the header memory to extract "next transfer route information" and writes the extracted "next transfer route information" into the header memory as part of the internal header. See page 15, lines 1-7, and in particular lines 3-4 of the

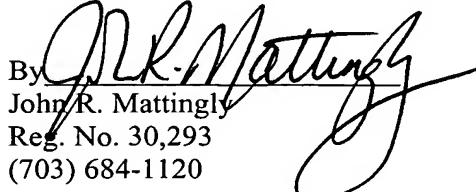
specification for support of the next transfer route information. Still further, the claim now sets forth that when the internal header stored in the header memory includes a plurality of "next transfer route information for multicasting", the transfer engine outputs the output packet to any or both of the connector and the at least one network interface in accordance with each of the plurality of "next transfer route information." See page 11, line 27 to page 12, line 1 for disclosing "IP Multicasting" and also page 15, line 28 to page 16, line 5 of the specification for disclosing that "packets can be cast to a plurality of routes at a time", in support of the added multicasting limitation. As amended, claim 6 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By   
John R. Mattingly  
Reg. No. 30,293  
(703) 684-1120

JRM/so

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